The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the labor, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Are You REGISTERED?

WHOLE NO. 1945 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1948 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 38, NO. 29

## NLRB Examiner Holds Unions Guilty; Disagrees With Findings of U. S. Judge

Washington.—Continuing the harassment of labor under the Taft-Hartley law, a trial examiner of the National Labor Relations Board ruled that a group of AFL unions violated the law's secondary boycott provisions, although a federal judge refused previously to issue an injunction against the unions on the ground that the dispute did not affect interstate commerce.

Disagreeing with Judge J. Foster Symes, the examiner, Earl S. Bellman, said the unions violated the law by calling strikes against 2 Denver employers to force them to stop doing business with an electrical firm which received $55,000 worth of materials from outside the state of Colorado.

Holding that the strike was an attempt to enforce an illegal boycott, the trial examiner recommended that the unions be required to cease and desist from such conduct. The examiner's ruling will take effect as a board order unless contested by one of the parties.

Disposing of Judge Symes' decision, the examiner said:

"While Dr. District Court refused to grant injunctive relief because, among other things, it did not interpret the evidence before it as establishing any effect upon commerce within the meaning of the act, such refusal did not constitute final adjudication of the issues presented for decision here."

Discussing the merits of the commerce issue, the examiner said:

"Gould and Preisner's (the employers) annual inflow of over $55,000 worth of materials is not negligible. Such an inflow is sufficient to establish the board's jurisdiction. Accordingly, the undersigned (the examiner) finds that Gould and Preisner are engaged in commerce within the meaning of the act."

As to the projects immediately involved, Mr. Bellman said:

"Out-of-state materials actually used (by Gould and Preisner on the electrical work) apparently did not exceed $500 in value."

He added, however, that "neither the question nor the ultimate effect upon commerce of unfair labor practices in such minor amounts can be measured in terms of the above figures (or out-of-state materials used in the two projects)."

## The AFL Participates in World Affairs

The AFL played an important part in the recently concluded 31st International Labor Conference, the opening session of which is pictured above as delegates from 58 nations met in San Francisco's Opera House. Frank P. Fenton, international representative for the AFL, attended the conference as the United States workers' delegate and was subsequently elected to a regular seat on the ILO governing body. Fenton was also named to the ILO committee which will attend the United Nations General Assembly which is scheduled to meet in Paris in September.

## Greater Efforts Are Urged In Understanding Tax Issues

New York.—Labor's stake in national, state and local tax programs is so tremendous that it demands concerted activity to promote and increase a better understanding of tax issues by all union members.

This was the general conclusion of the first of a series of six articles by Arthur A. Elder, consultant to the AFL's committee on taxation, written for the Workers, Education Bureau of America.

To promote this better understanding, Mr. Elder stated that all state federations and central labor unions establish committees on taxation to keep their membership informed of the facts concerning tax developments.

These committees could perform yeoman service by combating the influence of the various tax leagues which have sprung up all over the nation and which give the impression that they are interested in the worker's welfare, Mr. Elder stated. Actually, he declared, the tax leagues, most of which are backed by powerful businessmen, have always favored excise taxes, and general sales taxes which hit the low-income groups the hardest. He added:

"They are continually devising ways and means of ridding themselves of their tax load as they see it, and a large number of workers, floaters and recipients of pensions' may have the privilege of sharing it by paying more and bigger sales taxes, specific excise taxes, payroll and other nuisance taxes."

Elder charged that the tax leagues actively supported the "inflationary, aid-the-rich" tax reduction bill approved by the 80th Congress. They have done nothing toward eliminating the hundreds of specific excise taxes on transportation, telephone service, and on dozens of other items in constant use, he said.

In his discussion of tax problems, Elder emphasized the necessity of properly distributing the burden of high taxes which must, of necessity, continue. He said:

"If properly distributed, high taxes may contribute to continued high employment and purchasing power. If improperly distributed, they may lead to a decline in purchasing power, decreased employment and production, and so contribute to eventual depression."

Nelson H. Cruikshank, the AFL's director of social insurance activities, listens intently to an address before the first World Health Assembly, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. The speaker's address is tranflated into several languages and relayed to the delegates through earphones like those worn by Mr. Cruikshank.

## MEAT PRICE BOOSTS MAKE SCALES OBSOLETE

New York.—Meat prices have gone so high they have run right over the top of the computed price scales found on scales used by butchers to determine how much money should be jerked out of the hands of the consuming public.

To alleviate this tragic situation for retail meat markets, the Toledo Scale Company has jumped into the breach and will produce a new model scale which will have 900 computations more and higher price computations.

In announcing the new postwar models, the company said the scales will provide 70 prices per pound instead of the 19,000 price characters on the new price computation chart, or 45,000 more than the pre-war charts. If the present trend keeps up they'd better start working on a new attachment for the scale, a ladder.

## Truman to Urge Control of Inflation As Most Important Action for Congress

Washington.—Action to stop the soaring cost of living will be President Truman's first demand upon Congress when the special session convenes here, according to an announcement from the White House.

Next on the list of presidential priorities for legislative action is the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill.

Charles G. Ross, press secretary for Mr. Truman, said the President will address a comprehensive message to Congress calling for enactment of legislation on the topics discussed by him in his acceptance speech before the Democratic National Convention. These included: prices, housing, aid to education, national health program, its civil rights, increase in the minimum wage, extension of social security, enlarging public power programs, and the displaced persons' problem.

Mr. Ross described the top priority measure as "a concerted bill relating to high prices." The bill will have the same broad scope, however, as the 10-point anti-inflation program which Mr. Truman submitted to the special session of last November and which was largely rejected.

He said the new bill would be patterned on that program, but would contain revisions to meet the present situation. The 10-point program requested "stand-by" price and wage controls, consumer rationing, authority to regulate installment trading in commodity exchanges, and allocation and inventory controls of scarce commodities.

The President regards the price bill as extremely important," Mr. Ross said. "The subject of prices is one of the primary reasons why he called Congress into session. The other major topic is housing.

"It ought'n to be difficult for Congress to do something about housing inasmuch as the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill is a satisfactory bill. It has been passed by the Senate and is now in the Rules Committee.

"The President takes the position that if the question of housing is delayed until the next regular session in January the start of a housing program will be delayed for a year more. It would have to be thrashed out from the beginning."

Mr. Ross pointed out that the special session is practically a continuation of the second session of the 80th Congress. Thus the legislative status of the various measures remains valid as of adjournment on June 20 and would not be binding on the 81st Congress.

## Jam-Packed Political Rally Gets Report on LLPE Gains

Chattanooga, Tenn.—A wildly enthusiastic crowd of over 5,000 persons jammed Memorial Auditorium here in a labor rally sponsored by The AFL's Labor's League for Political Education to raise campaign funds to bring about the defeat of labor's foes in the forthcoming elections.

The cheering overflow crowd heard A. J. Hines, AFL national legislative representative, and Edward H. Weyler, secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Federation of Labor, urge them to vote "for the candidates who will represent us against the forces of reaction."

Hines flatly asserted that the Taft-Hartley Act was drawn by the lawyers of the National Association of Manufacturers, and that both Taft and Hartley had never denied the charge. He also charged that "vicious" legislation knew anything of the contents.

Referring to the effects of the AFL's new League for Political Education, Hines said that the labor political achievements in the short time that we have been functioning is indeed encouraging."

He said the labor victory recently in Iowa "eliminated from the political scene a most antilabor, reactionary Congressman who viciously attacked the wage-hour law, Congressman Gwynne.

"It is interesting to note in this connection that the so-called scientific polls had predicted the election of Congressman Gwynne's opponent, but they failed to take into consideration that 65,000 unexpected voters showed up at the polls—thanks to our political education program.

"Two Taft-Hartley Congressmen were recently defeated in Alabama. Pennsylvania's three enemies of labor fell by the wayside, while Senator Sparkman of Alabama was elected with the help of every political organization in the state. Senator Underwood was defeated because of his antagonism toward organized labor."

The Kentucky labor official said the economy of the United States rests on a "three-legged stool"—labor, industry and agriculture, and that "what hurts one hurts the all."

He asserted farmers received $30 beef or fine pork to a $1 per day working man."

Joining Hines in an attack on the Taft-Hartley law, Weyler declared:

"The time has again come when the boss wants the right to coerce you, blackmail you and pay you what he pleases. That's what is behind the Taft-Hartley Act."

## Labor Groups to Be Fully Represented In National Industrial Safety Parley

Washington.—Labor will play an important part in the President's Conference on Industrial Safety, to be held in Washington, September 27, 28 and 29, according to William L. Connolly, director of the Bureau of Labor Standards.

William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, has accepted an assignment on the important coordinating committee of the conference. This committee will meet with President Truman and other conference officials on July 27 to develop the agenda for the preliminary conference in September.

The coordinating committee will advise and assist the seven general committees which will report to the conference and each of these committees will have a labor representative as its vice-chairman, Connolly said.

Organization of the conference staff is rapidly nearing completion and plans are progressing rapidly for the conference, he explained, adding:

"The most important national conclave yet held in industrial safety."

Advisory groups interested in every phase of industrial safety will meet with the President in September and will present their views immediately on to a nationwide basis. All committees will be engaged in giving the advice and cooperation of outstanding safety groups and individuals throughout the country and a general conference will follow in the spring of 1949.

Everett P. Ahearn, executive secretary of the National Sand and Gravel Association, will be general executive director of the conference by President Truman and Lloyd J. Blanchard, assistant to the general chairman, Connolly said. The council and a nationally known industrial safety expert, is assistant executive director.

## BLS Report on Safety and Absenteeism Shows Older Workers Have Best Record

Washington.—Men and women in also highest in the lower age groups, the 45-or-more age group offer distinct advantages to employers over their younger fellow-workers, according to an art'cle in the July issue of the Monthly Labor Review, official publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The article points out that not only are the workers in the 45-and-over age group offer more highly developed skills, more mature judgment and more settled work habits as against the stamina and agility of youth, but he is frequently less likely to be absent and is less prone to injury than the younger worker.

In a study of the work records of about 17,800 workers of all ages, including 2,000 women, it was revealed that the highest absenteeism rate was found among younger workers. The article said:

"The absenteeism rate, figures as the number of days lost per 100 work-days which the workers were scheduled to work, decreased consistently as age increased. Workers under 20 years of age had the highest absenteeism rate. At the point where the 45-year age group is reached, the absenteeism rate goes down to 3.4. In every age group above 20 workers lost fewer days than scheduled workdays than those in any age group below 50.

The frequency rates of both disabling and nondisabling injuries were also highest in the lower age groups, the article reveals. Lesser injuries, however, declined steadily and more steadily as age increased. Older workers, however, took longer to recover from injuries than did those in the lower age groups.

"The frequency rate," explains the article, "measures the number of work injuries per million hours worked, and is roughly equivalent to the number of injuries per year per 100 full-time workers. Disabling injuries, by definition, require an employee either to sustain a permanent impairment or to be disabled for work for at least one full shift. Nondisabling injuries usually require only first aid.

The frequency rate of disabling injuries for workers between the ages of 55 to 69 years was about the same as that for the 45- to 49-year group. This rate, in turn, was only fractionally higher than that for the 25- to 34-year group. The highest accident rates occurred in the groups from 35 to 44 years in the work the disabling work injury experiences of workers aged 45 or more compared favorably with those of the lower age groups.

Workers included in the study were employed in 109 manufacturing plants at a variety of occupations, mostly productive. Records from which the study was made covered at least 6 months in every instance.

## AFL Whips CIO In NLRB Elections

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor whipped the CIO in the NLRB supervised collective bargaining elections which pitted the two labor organizations against one another in elections held by the National Labor Relations Board during May.

The statistical report released by the NLRB, covering its activities for the month of May, said that the AFL came out on top in 13 elections against only 9 victories for the rival organization. Out of a total of 27 elections which involved a CIO opposition, 4 resulted in a vote for "neither union," 2 elections were indeterminate.

The AFL participated in a total of 215 collective bargaining elections and won a majority in 137 instances, or 63.7 percent. On the other hand, the CIO won 50 out of the total of 100 elections in which it was involved, or 50 percent.

Continuing the trend of the last several months, unions continued to roll up overwhelming favorable majorities in cases where authorization polls conducted by the NLRB as required under the Taft-Hartley law. In May, the unions won 98 percent of all such elections held, with 95 percent of the valid votes cast in favor of the union shop. Of the total of 4,435 polls held, AFL affiliates came out the victors in 4,344 instances.

For the first time since the Taft-Hartley law was enacted, the NLRB issued no cease and desist orders to employers in charge cases awaiting action at the end of May. A total of 13,254 cases were awaiting action on the regional level, a decrease of 8 percent from the number pending on April 30.

## CITY PAYROLLS INCREASE 15% IN 1-YEAR PERIOD

Washington.—Payroll costs of city governments increased by $31,000,000 a month, or 15 percent, in the 12 months ended last September 30, the Census Bureau reported today.

The bureau said that the monthly payroll for cities had reached a record $236,000,000 by last October after an uninterrupted upswing since January, 1947. The bureau's report covered 2,000 cities with population above 10,000.

## WHOLE WORLD SUFFERS FROM HOUSING LACK

Washington.—World War II destroyed the equivalent of 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 dwellings. But this represents only about 15 to 20 percent of the total world housing shortage. From reports analyzed by the Housing and Home Finance Agency, it is estimated that in Europe and Africa, destruction of houses totaled about 12,000,000 dwelling units. In Asia, the war damage accounted for a loss estimated all the way from 7,000,000 to 17,000,000 homes.

## ILGWU Affiliate Negotiates New Pact; Gains Retirement Fund, Wage Increases

Brooklyn.—An agreement providing for wage increases and a new retirement fund has been negotiated by the Knitgoods Workers Union, Local 155, of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, Louis Nelson, manager of the local, has announced.

The agreement maintains the existing working conditions and in addition provides for a retirement fund and increases in wages and minimums, Nelson said. The retirement fund is to be set up, with employer contributions of 1 percent of the payroll. This is the first such retirement plan in the knitgoods industry.

Wage increases to meet the increased cost of living were obtained for all week workers in the sum of $3, $4, and $5 a week, and the minimum wage scales for all workers week and piece rates were increased by $3, $4, and $5 per week. The minimum wage scales in the agreement are the floor for wage payments.

Commenting on the new contract, Mr. Nelson said:

"We are well satisfied with the agreement. The union has been a resistance organization in the knitgoods industry and therefore was willing to compromise some of its demands in order to avoid a strike in the industry. We are, however, very gratified in order to protect the working and living standards of our members in the face of the increased cost of living. 1 of 1 percent of the payroll payment fund for old members is being instituted, which is a big contribution in promoting the stability of the trade through the maintenance of a skilled labor force. The industry as a whole is also to benefit whose labor over a period of 40 and 50 years has been of value to present high and productive level."

## Air Line Pilots Union Accepts Report Of Fact-Finding Board In Labor Dispute

Chicago.—The AFL's Air Line Pilots Association has announced that their acceptance of the Presidential Emergency Board's recommendations for settlement of the 6-months-old National Airlines strike, but that Jo Bebneker, president of the association, cautioned that the strike is not over and will continue unabated until there is a similar acceptance by the company.

The fact-finding board's report, recently issued found the company guilty of violations of the Railway Labor Act.

"The presidential board's recommendations are not mandatory and the strike will not be cancelled until they are applied," the head of the union's executive council explained, adding:

"The persuasion for acceptance of Presidential Emergency Board's recommendations is the greatest power of a free people—that of public opinion.

"In other words, there is a strike, the board investigates and makes a report relating to it publicly recommends a basis of settlement. It is a matter of public interest and the public knows that strikes be ended by complying with Presidential Emergency Board recommendations."

## KLEIN TO SEEK REPEAL OF TAFT-HARTLEY LAW

Washington.—Representative Arthur G. Klein, of New York, said he will move to repeal the Taft-Hartley labor law on the first day of the special session of Congress called by President Truman. He served notice to that effect in a letter to Representative Fred A. Hartley, Republican, of New Jersey, chairman of the House Labor Committee and coauthor of the Taft-Hartley Act. Mr. Klein is a member of the committee.

Mr. Klein said that if Mr. Hartley's committee "fails to act" on approving the repeal bill, he will move to take it out of the committee's hands and bring it to the House floor for debate.

## WAGE CONTRACT ENDS RESTAURANT STRIKE

Belleville, Ill.—Eating places reopened here after owners of the last 15 of 123 establishments signed contracts with Local 117 of the AFL Bartenders, Waitresses, Cooks and Hotel Employes Union, ending a strike over increased pay requests. Under the new contract, inexperienced waitresses will receive $21 a week, increased from $19, and trained bartenders will get $67.50, increased from $60.

## AFL UNION OFFICIAL HONORED BY COLLEGE

Pullman, Wash.—Ted M. Hopkins, vice president of the AFL's American Federation of Grain Processors, was honored here recently by the Washington Institute of Technology for "distinguished service in the industrial development of the Pacific Northwest."

Hopkins was awarded a special certificate of merit for his part in the conduct of labor-management relations in the grain processing industry which has been free of work stoppages for the past 8 years. A management representative was similarly honored.

The award was presented by Dr. Wilson Compton, president of the college, with an accompanying citation which said in part:

"Ted M. Hopkins * * * has fostered and encouraged on the part of labor and management alike a spirit of understanding and mutual consideration which has resulted in high production and in continuing harmony between labor and management."

## DRAFT LAW THREATENS APPRENTICE PROGRAMS

New York.—David S. Miller, president of the Producers Council, warned that the new selective service law may cause serious withdrawals from the ranks of construction employes and pose a threat toward the employment of a greater number of apprentices in the building industry.

The number of apprentices employed in May numbered 7,000, an increase of 30 percent over the same month in 1947.

Although the number of apprentices has increased, Miller said that than the volume of new building during the past year, the supply of skilled building workers is "tight" in some localities at a time when the volume of new construction is expected to be larger than a year ago, Mr. Miller declared.

Mr. Miller credited the Bureau of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor with bringing about much of the increase in the number of apprentices through cooperation with employers and labor in setting up improved training programs.

## COURT BACKS FIRING A NONUNION EX-GI

Philadelphia.—The United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that an honorably discharged veteran's refusal to join a union which holds a closed shop contract was "just cause" for firing him.

Judge John Biggs, Jr., handed down the unanimous opinion that since closed shop contracts were legal before the Taft-Hartley Act, an employe was bound by such a contract and could be fired under the Selective Training and Service Act.

To permit a nonunion veteran to work in the face of the conditions of a agreement that all employes must belong to the union, Judge Biggs said, would be to force the employer to violate the union agreement.

## MAN HOURS DECREASE PER UNIT OF PRODUCT

NEW YORK.—The average number of man-hours required per unit of product was 3 percent less in 1948 than in 1939 for the production of selected types of general purpose industrial equipment, Boris Shishkin, labor economist of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, reported.

Between 1939 and 1942, he explained, the index of unit man-hour requirements declined steadily to a point 3 percent below that of 1939, as important gains in production efficiency were made. During 1943 and 1944, however, the trend was reversed. By 1944, man-hours exceeded the 1939 level and increased to about the same level as in the base year 1939. Preliminary unit-hour requirements decreased 3 percent from 1944 to 1945.

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# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

## SUPPLEMENT

Are You REGISTERED?

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1948 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

## Probe of World Slave Labor Conditions Barred by UN Economic, Social Council

Geneva, Switzerland.—Over the opposition of the United States, the United Nations Economic and Social Council voted to delete from its agenda a proposal to investigate slave labor conditions in member nations of the United Nations.

Also stricken from the agenda were items concerning trade union rights, equal pay for women, and a special charge filed by the Communist-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions claiming violations of trade union rights in 11 countries, none of which are in eastern Europe.

The proposed investigation on slave labor was placed before the United Nations by the American Federation of Labor and subsequently referred to the Economic and Social Council for action. At its last session the council postponed discussion of the proposal until the present meeting.

The United States delegate, Willard Thorp, voted to retain the slave labor question on the agenda but recommended that the other items were rightfully under the jurisdiction of the International Labor Office and should not be discussed until the ILO had completed study of all the issues involved.

France led the group of nations which successfully opposed discussion of the slave labor question. Supporting the United States were both British and Soviet-bloc delegates.

The Russians were out to seize upon the opportunity of a discussion of slave labor for propaganda purposes. This was the intent of the WFTU in claiming violations of trade union rights in other nations. It was hoped that in open discussion an attack could be launched against the free trade-loving nations. Comments of Russian delegate A. A. Arutiunian bear out this point.

He said such a discussion would "unmask the slanders of the reaction—the American Federation of Labor, which is trying to split the working class in the United States and abroad."

Oscar Lange of Communist-dominated Poland supported the proposal to find "many interesting aspects of this problem in colonial countries and its own country."

## AFL Sends 1,000 Food Parcels to Berlin; Plans New Campaign to Continue Aid

Washington.—In response to urgent appeals from Russian-blockaded Berlin, the American Federation of Labor rushed 1,000 CARE food packages to the city for distribution to trade union families, Matthew Woll, AFL Executive Council member announced.

At the same time Mr. Woll said a nationwide AFL-CARE campaign would be launched for the continued support of European workers struggling to rebuild a free democratic trade union movement.

The AFL acted swiftly in the Berlin crisis through its Labor League for Human Rights, the American foreign relief arm of the organization which is headed by Mr. Woll. Most of the 22-pound food parcels were flown into Berlin from Frankfort-on-the-Main, since CARE was able to supply only 100 packages from its stockpile in the former German capital. Those were immediately distributed to needy families there.

"We are going to let down the people who are struggling to rebuild a free democratic trade union movement in Germany," Mr. Woll declared. "They are the people whose unions first felt the hammer blows of Hitler and his Nazis. They saw their long years of work smashed; now they are reconstructing."

Since 1939, the AFL, through the Labor League for Human Rights has been sending unceasing help to democratic trade unionists in Germany and elsewhere in Europe," Mr. Woll said. "Even during the war, we were able to get aid through to the dispersed and hunted fighters for freedom and to their wives and children.

"We regard the present emergency as providing no less a reason for swift, humanitarian action. No one knows how long the Berlin blockade will endure, but as long as it does, we shall certainly meet our obligation to the hungry and as supporters of free democratic trade unionism.

"This AFL-CARE campaign marks a progress of all-out support for the men and women striving against terrific odds to reconstruct their unions," Mr. Woll declared.

All funds and CARE package orders in the campaign will be sent to CARE, AFL representatives, 20 Broad Street, New York 4. Unions are being urged to make contributions from their treasuries, while members will be asked to make individual purchases.

All shipments will be covered by CARE's guaranteed delivery, and under the agreement with the various governments, the recipients will be required to pay no taxes or customs duties on the packages, nor will they suffer loss of their regular rations.

## Facts on Infantile Paralysis Available to Union Families

Washington.—The stamping out of infantile paralysis, or polio, is a challenging task which demands the intelligent and cooperative use of money, scientific knowledge, and the determination of success in the gallant

Labor, and by this term is meant not only the widespread AFL organization but also its 8,000,000 individual union members, has always responded promptly and generously to appeals for assistance from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, who are waging war on this dread and unscrupulous disease. Labor has a right to point the way towards the progress made in this valiant and continuing battle.

In return for its assistance, labor is also entitled to receive the benefits and services rendered by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and should be informed of the progress which has been touched by polio know of this fact at first hand. Others have heard that facilities are available but are not informed. All members of organized labor may know just exactly what these services are if they study the narratives of literature distributed by the foundation and other organizations.

In the face of ever-mounting numbers of polio cases reported each and every day during the year by the health authorities of the nation, it is increasingly important that every union member have access to such information as is known about the cause, cure, and prevention of polio to minimize the danger of contracting it. Indications are that 1948 may be one of the worst polio years on record.

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has issued a poster entitled "A Message to Parents" which gives briefly and succinctly some of the known facts about polio, recommends precautions to be taken during the dangerous summer months, and outlines the services rendered by the foundation to those stricken by the disease.

Copies of this poster have been distributed to the foundation to many unions. We have been advised, however, by a spokesman for the foundation that additional copies are available. Requests for single copies, or bulk orders of unlimited quantity, will be filled promptly by the foundation upon receipt of a postcard request directed to James J. Hirkenham, Jr., Director, Labor Division, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, 120 Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.

## States to Pass on World Labor Pacts Under New Change In ILO Constitution

By joint resolution approved by both houses of Congress, the United States government soon will formally changes in the constitution of the International Labor Office.

The changes bring into conformity the procedures set up by the international-state dual system of government for the adoption of ILO pacts by permitting each of the 48 states to ratify or not ratify, conventions adopted by the annual ILO conferences which are members of the ILO.

The resolution also defined policies relating to American participation in conferences of the ILO. One letter appended to the resolution provides that all delegates and alternate appointed to represent the United States in all future sessions of the ILO must undergo investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Another rider fixed $1,001,739 as the maximum contribution of the United States for ILO activities and the sum of $95,000 for the expenses of American delegates designated to participate in the deliberations.

The ILO was organized in 1919 as an affiliate of the League of Nations. It has a membership of 58 nations of its members in 1934.

Under the American industry has become increasingly aware of the importance which international problems exert on our economy. Both management and labor, as well as the United States government, have participated in a steadily increasing role in the ILO's work. All three are directly represented on the ILO Governing Body. Members countries are entitled to send four delegates, two from the government, one management, and one labor.

## Employment Shows Greater Stability; BLS Reports Hiring Rate Holds Steady

Washington. — Employment has achieved greater stability at high levels of industrial activity, according to statistics released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The BLS reported that the hiring rate for May in manufacturing industries remained steady at a rate of 40 for every 1,000 employes on the payroll, below the level of any May since the prewar period.

Total separations, including quits and layoffs, declined to 43 per 1,000 employes. The additional significant rise in layoffs failed to materialize with the rate decreasing to 11 per 1,000, well under the comparable months of other postwar years. The

## Philippine Group Honors Gompers, AFL; Meany Accepts Flag As Token of Esteem

Washington. — In two ceremonies here Philippine workers honored the International Labor Conference paid tribute to the memory of Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor, and affirmed their close and friendly ties with the AFL.

The Philippine delegation, led by Aurelio Intertas, General Secretary of the Philippine Longshoremen's Union, placed a wreath on the Gompers memorial statue in token of the appreciation of the group, of which the founder of the American Federation of Labor bequeathed to the organization the world over."

In another ceremony, a flag of the Philippine Republic was presented to the AFL on behalf of the Confederation of Trade Unions in the Philippines as a tangible expression of the past and continuing friendship between the labor movements in the Philippines and the United States.

The flag was accepted by George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer, acting for William Green, AFL president, who was out of the city.

Attending the brief but impressive ceremony at the Gompers monument were Philippine Senator Frank Taylor, the AFL's international representative, Serafin Bonquidi, Asian American representative for the AFL, and Roberto Espinosa, chairman of the National Confederation of Trade Unions in the Philippines.

In his tribute to Gompers' memory, Intertas declared that the group, declared that "as long as there are men and women who are struggling for labor and their future to the welfare of the working man and women, there will always be hope for peace and world prosperity."

Speaking for the International Labor Organization, the Philippine representatives of the Conference's Executive, and Rupert Cristobal, general secretary of the National Confederation of Trade Unions in the Philippines.

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## HATTERS UNION TRIUMPHS IN UNION SHOP ELECTIONS

New York—Results of union shop elections among workers employed in the men's hat industry and represented by the AFL's United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers Union prove conclusively that the union's right to contract to achieve union-shop conditions of employment in the hat firms.

Sara Lewis, acting president of the union, announced that 9 1 elections in union recovered by the union. The votes cast by a total of 4,090 workers who took part in the elections.

At the Philadelphia plant of the John B. Stetson Co., the largest men's hat manufacturing firm in the country, there were 2,200 votes cast, of which 2,286 were for the union and 44 against.

In Norwalk, Conn., only 22 workers in the Hat Corporation of America plant voted against the union shop proposal while 1,660 voted to support the union security measure. Two other firms in Norwalk recorded 100 percent votes in favor of the union.

## DEPT. OF COMMERCE SAYS PERSONAL INCOME UP

Washington.—Personal income of consumers went up by $700,000 000 in May, the Department of Commerce reported, despite a slight decline in production of the work stoppage in the coal industry.

The increase in the month boosted total income of the nation at the annual rate of $208,100,000,000, the report said. Increases in farm income, in wages and salaries more than offset the reported decline in the value of state bonus payments to veterans. The personal income rose to the steady since last December ranging between $184,000 000,000 and $193,000,000,000. Farm income which has varied more widely, stayed at its April rate of $23,700,000,000 in May.

QUITS NLRB JOB OVER T-H LAW

Milwaukee.—Michael Smith, 46 years old, saying he was "convinced that the Taft-Hartley Act is destroying rights of labor," resigned as head of the Milwaukee office of the National Labor Relations Board.

## AFL FEDERAL EMPLOYES ADOPT LEGISLATIVE PLAN

Washington.—The AFL's Government Employes Council met in special session here to adopt a federal legislative program for presentation to Congress when it assembles for the special session called by President Truman.

Included in the recommended program are measures: (1) to include all civil service employes of the District of Columbia among those eligible for the recently enacted federal pay increase; (2) to amend the classification act and remove the existing ceiling on salaries; and (3) to further amend the civil service retirement act.

## VA URGES PROMPT ACTION ON LAPSED GI INSURANCE

Washington.—The Veterans Administration urges veterans who allowed their National Service Life Insurance term policies to lapse in May or before not to wait until July 31, the last day to reinstate them without passing a physical examination, a new setting.

To avoid the possibility of having to wait in long lines on the last day for easy reinstatement the VA said, veterans would be wise to obtain quickly application forms and forward them with the required two monthly insurance premiums.

## Wholesale Prices Set Record; BLS Index Hits 148-Year Peak

*Prices Break Through 1920 High Levels; New Boost Seen*

Washington. — Wholesale prices, as measured by an index of 900 commodities priced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, moved upward to shatter all known records dating back to the year 1800.

The new record was set for the week ending July 17 when the index, paced by a 2.2 percent jump in food prices, rose 1.3 points to its new dizzy level, 168.9 percent of the 1926 average, and 12.4 percent over a year ago.

The BLS announcement of the wholesale price jump came on the eve of the special session of Congress called by President Truman to tackle as its main objective the high cost of living. The President has asked inflation control legislation top priority on the proposed legislative program he will request of Congress.

The likely effect of such rising wholesale prices for consumers will be to boost the cost of living to a new peak which has already surpassed World War I and World War II highs, thus placing an even greater squeeze on the average consumer.

Since the latest BLS report on prices does not include the recent price increase announced by the nation's huge steel industry, the outlook for consumers take on an even more distressing aspect. The announced steel price increase will undoubtedly be reflected in higher prices to the public for everything ranging from ships and highway bridges to tin cans and bobby pins. Any boost in the prices of basic construction items will generally results in higher prices all along the line from the original producer to the ultimate consumer.

The prior record for the BLS wholesale price index was in May, 1920, following the first World War. The index then stood at 167.2.

The new index increase was caused by boosts of 2.3 percent for the week in average food prices and 1 percent in average farm prices.

Food wholesale prices were 5 percent higher than their all-time record last January. During the July 17 week, meats advanced 3.6 percent, with pork 6 percent higher and mutton up 5 percent.

Wholesale price increases for lard, sugar, coffee, and cocoa also helped move average food prices up to a point 5.6 percent higher than a month ago and 12.8 percent higher than a year ago.

Among farm products, price increases for oats, sorghum and flour contributed to the rise in that group.

The BLS began keeping the wholesale index in 1890 when the agency was part of the Treasury Department. BLS has been in the Labor Department since that department was created in 1913.

As historical background for its own statistics, the BLS has adopted wholesale indices prepared by the Congress for Congress for the period between 1800 and 1890 and, prior to that, by civilians whose work is accepted as the best available figures available for the pre-1800 era.

## Indictments for Price Fixing Tactics Returned Against 14 Paint Makers

Pittsburgh.—The Justice Department's drive against monopoly entered by big business on some legal way here when a Federal District Court handed down indictments against 14 of the nation's largest paint and varnish manufacturers.

The companies and some 20 of their officials were charged with conspiracy to fix prices of paints and wood finishes in the billion-dollar industry. The manufacturers involved produce nearly half of all the nation's paints, varnishes, enamels and lacquers.

Indictments were returned on the heels of the final capitulation by the Federal Trade Commission in the new fight waged by the federal government to force these to abandon its basing point system in the setting of steel prices. Steel manufacturers took the hint when the Department of Justice a similar pricing system in the cement industry discontinued.

One of the indictments against the paint manufacturers listed these defendants as producers of paints, varnishes, enamels and lacquers:

Sherwin-Williams Co. Cleveland; American-Marietta Co., Chicago; Cook Paint and Varnish Co., Kansas City, Mo.; Devoe and Raynolds Co., Inc., New York; E. I. Dupont de Nemours and Co., Wilmington, Del.; General Paint Corp., San Francisco; The Glidden Co., Cleveland; Pittsburgh International Corp., New York, and the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Pittsburgh.

A second group was described as producers of "lacquer and enamels and stains for use in the automotive industry." They were E. I. Dupont de Nemours and Co.; American-Marietta Co.; Columbus Coated Fabrics, Columbus Ohio; Duco Sales Rapids Varnish Co., Grand Rapids, Mich; The Lilly Co., Phila., Pa.; and the Lilly Varnish Co., Indianapolis; Sherwin-Williams Co. and the Southern Varnish Corp., Roanoke, Va.

## AFL Wins NLRB Polls; Steps Up Political Drive

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for the AFL News Service

New York.—Union security elections under the National Labor Relations Board among members of Local 338 in the metropolitan area have resulted in a 90.86 percent vote for AFL unions.

The employes, employed at the Clinton Collins, AFL regional organizer, covered 10,500 employes of whom 130 voted against union security. The elections conducted in the various plants scattered throughout the five New York boroughs and Westchester County.

Plants hitherto without organization have been swung over either from an independent or company union status or from rival bodies.

On the political front, initiation of a drive by the New York Cloak Joint Board of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union to set up a $100 000 political war chest highlighted developments in the metropolitan area.

Paralleling this has been the announcement by the Essex County Industrial Education League of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor whose acting chairman, Fraser L. Haislohner, declared that the campaign would stress "the high cost of living issue that the last ballot in counted next November."

The Cloak Joint Board campaign, directed by Israel Feinberg, general manager, will seek to collect $2 from each member in addition to regular of subscription lists in all shops. Meetings of shop officials are now underway to acquaint workers with the plan.

In the meantime, AFL officials have accepted leadership posts in the New York State Democratic Action Committee. Appointment to the special convention where a speech by Joseph D. Keenan, executive director of Labor League for Political Education, was delivered. The speech was read for him by Harold Hanover, secretary-treasurer of the New York State Federation of Labor.

Among AFL leaders who have established a broad working unity with ADA, whose national convention was recently addressed by President William Green, are: Charles S. Zimmerman, ILGWU; Dennis McLaurin Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Nichols Permante, Boston, Hotel and Restaurant Employes; Jacob Potofsky, Amalgamated; Nathaniel M. Minkoff and Joseph Tavino, ILGWU; John Schrier, AFL Building Service Union; Buffalo; Thomas J. Gleason, Building Service International Union; William Munger and Nat Spector, Hat, Cap & Millinery Workers.

In New Jersey, Holzloher, who'le also president of the Essex Building and Construction Trades Council, announced a series of weekly broadcasts as part of a registration drive. Dramatic and comedy skits will be presented.

## Workmen's Compensation Laws Enacted By All States Provide Varying Security

Washington. — Workmen's compensation laws, designed to assure prompt payments to injured workers, their employes or to dependents of those killed in industry, throughout the nation are now on the statute books in all states.

In most states, according to the Department of Labor, the benefit payable is between one-half and two-thirds of the regular weekly wage, except in those states which have imposed a maximum on the amount of the weekly benefit.

Before these laws were passed, if a worker was injured and sued his employer for damages, he had to prove that the employer was negligent. Under a compensation law the question of negligence is not one of work injuries is considered to be a part of the cost of production.

Two types of laws have been enacted—compulsory and elective. If the law is compulsory, employers covered by the law, but not by choice, must pay the compensation specified in the statute regardless of negligence (or accident) or by gradual onset of an occupational disease. For an employe, cannot defend a suit because of negligence of the injured employe or a fellow worker.

Coverage under workmen's compensation laws has been extended since it has been estimated that only about 50 percent of American workers are protected by these laws. Certain occupational groups are excluded from the statutes, particularly farm and domestic workers. Some of the acts also exempt employers with fewer than a specified number of workers or apply only to listed hazardous employments. Many workers are not covered under elective acts if the employer elects not to accept the provisions.

To make certain that benefit payments will be made when due, the law requires that either the insured employer shall obtain insurance or give proof of his qualification to carry his own risk. In most states the employer is required to insure in the state fund. In all but 6 states the laws are administered by boards or commissions or by the labor department. In case of disputed claims, investigators and passes on facts, and makes awards. In the 6 states where there is no such administrative agency, the whole job rests with the court.

In 29 states, workers receive compensation for all disabilities arising out of employment, whether the injury is caused by the employer's negligence (or accident) or by gradual onset of an occupational disease. In the other 19 states where occupational disease is not covered, only those diseases enumerated in the law (schedule coverage).

Under the workmen's compensation laws the injured worker is entitled to money payments during his disability as well as to medical care, and in some states rehabilitation or aid in retraining is provided if the worker has become unfitted for his accustomed job. Compensation is paid to the worker's dependents in case of death.

## GREEN PRESENTS CHARTER TO GRAIN MILLERS UNION

Kansas City, Mo.—The First Constitutional Convention of the American Federation of Grain Millers International Union met here to formally receive the newest AFL international union on its career.

AFL President William Green participated in the convention and presented the charter of the AFL's newest granted by the AFL to the new organization. Green congratulated the delegates upon the formation of the union and pledged the AFL's continued support and backing.

Before the meeting as an AFL international affiliate, the organization was known as the Federal Association of Grain Processors Council. At that time it was affiliated with AFL Federal Labor Unions all of which were active in the grain processing industry.

## Note to Editors

As in past years the AFL Weekly News Service will devote a forthcoming issue to special Labor Day material. Accordingly, the issue of this special service will be included in the publication schedule without charge to editors of AFL papers throughout the nation. In addition to the special Labor Day editorial, other pertinent material for the holiday observance will be carried from time to time in the regular editions of the News Service as it becomes available.